

Northfield Open Space Committee

Minutes, Oct 1, 2013

Town Hall – Planning Board Room

Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.

Present: Mike Barry, Bob Hall, Joanne McGee, Sue Ross, Jenny Tufts, Jerry Wagener, Chair.

Absent: Kate Rossiter

Guest: Barb Richardson

The meeting opened at 7:30.

1. **Adoption of agenda**: After a few changes, the agenda was adopted.
2. **Approval of minutes**: July 16, 2013, minutes were approved. Jenny/Sue 5-0-0
3. **Barb and Sam Richardson** have been leading the Sunday Series of hikes for two years now and would like to reduce their commitment. Hikers meet the first and third Sunday afternoons at the Town Hall parking lot for a hike of up to two hours. The Richardsons maintain an email list of hikers; about one third of the hikers are Northfield residents. Kate designed a flyer for publicity for the first year, but Barb felt that the announcement on “Trail Mix”, the weekly outdoor page in the Recorder was most effective. The committee discussed the scheduling, frequency, suggested leaders, and possible places for hikes. It was felt that a monthly hike for April, May, June, Sept, Oct, and Nov would work.
4. **Member comments**:
 - Joanne announced that a series of photographs of the New England National Scenic Trail are on exhibit at the library.
 - Jenny announced that the Source to the Sea cleanup is Saturday, Oct. 5. Participants will meet at the Green Trees Gallery at 9 am.
 - Mike received an email from Matthias Nevins, a new Americorps volunteer, about a local firewood bank similar to a local food bank. Sean Mahoney, a DCR forester, is interested in exploring the idea. A possible source for wood would be the thinning from the Town Forest.
 - Jerry will attend Deb Kern’s meeting Saturday to plan a series of programs on forests funded by a grant from a foundation.
5. **Citizen Stewardship Award**: Jenny submitted the notice to the Northfield Newsletter. She is concerned about the lack of nominees from the agricultural sphere. Several of the criteria would fit an agricultural operation. Jerry will talk with Bill Ames about encouraging a nomination from the Agricultural Committee.
6. **Mill Brook update**: After the letter was sent to the Selectboard asking them to contact NMH, Jack Spanbauer contacted NMH, but there is no further news.
7. **Crag Mt. update**: The appraisals are in the works.

8. **Child's land** (off Gulf Rd): Jerry will email the sketch to Mike. Joanne will email the realtor info to Mike for ConsCom consideration.
9. **Trails icon**: The committee examined various designs. Jerry will try to get some prices.
10. **Other business**: The Community Preservation Committee will hold a public forum on Thursday, Nov. 21 to discuss needs and resources.
11. **Next meeting**: Tuesday, November 19, 2013

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee